



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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## **Riverside Celebrates Food Day with Multiple Events Across the City**

*Community event calls attention to food access issues*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Hundreds of Riverside residents recently celebrated Food Day, the nationwide celebration and movement toward healthy, affordable, sustainably produced food. Local individuals, groups, and institutions marked Food Day with educational activities and partnership building to advance Riverside's local food movement.

UCR students celebrated Food Day every day during the noon hour with a visit from a local farmer, smoothie demonstrations, locally sourced tacos and walks through UCR's Botanic Gardens. These events helped foster education and understanding of food, agriculture and environmental quality.

Members of the newly formed Riverside Food System Alliance (RFSA) had a strategic planning meeting, convening private and public stakeholders to support increased production and consumption of locally grown produce.

On October 24th, a team made up of staff from the Riverside County Department of Public Health Nutrition Services and the City of Riverside volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank and conducted outreach for potential partnerships with food pantries. This activity was part of the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch Program through which the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and the City of Riverside are partnering to increase healthy food access in Riverside.

National Food Day aims to bring us closer to a food system with "real food" that is produced with care for the environment, animals and the women and men who grow, harvest and serve it. The fourth annual Food Day featured thousands of events across the country and had a special focus of calling attention to justice throughout the food chain and to increased access to healthful food for all Americans culminating in a day of action in October every year.

More information about National Food Day is available at [www.foodday.org](http://www.foodday.org). Support Riverside's local food movement by visiting a farmers market. A list is available at <http://www.startrightriverside.com/farmers-markets>.